In Central Silk Board's budget for the year 1988-89, a budget provision of Rs. 115.50 lakhs has been earmarked for Research, Development Seed and Extension support in the North-Eastern Region.

Aid from Japan

3765. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has been providing fund to India for the development of infrastructure for Tourism and Agriculture;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of aid given by Japan for that purpose so far;

(c) whether Japan has proposed to step up aid in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total amount of aid given by Japan for development of infrastructure for tourism and agriculture so far has aggregated Yen 18.828 Billion equivalent to Rs. 203.32 crores approximately.

(c) and (d) For the current financial year (1988-89) Japan has pledged a loan assistance of Yen 87.834 Billion equivalent to Rs. 948.53 crores approximately to India for implementation of projects in power, tourism, small scale enterprises, irrigation, fertilizer, industrial and ports modernisation sectors. The pledge of assistance for 1988-89 represents an increase of 28 per cent. in Yen terms, over the normal loan assistance of Yen 68 477 Billion equivalent to Rs. 739.50 crores approximately pledged for 1987-88.

Payment of Loans of Sick Shipping Companies

3766. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has declined to take over the responsibility of paying the entire outstanding loans of sick shipping companies due to commercial banks;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of outstanding loan which is not being paid by the shipping companies; and

(c) what would be its financial implications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Commercial Banks had provided in the past loans under Ship Acquisition from abroad under new scheme (SAFAUNS) as well as foreign exchange loans to several private sector shipping companies in connection with acquisition of ships. These loans were in several cases guaranteed|counter-guaranteed by the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC). At the time of the abolition of the Shipping Development Fund Committee on 3rd April, 1987, the principal amount of bank loans outstanding from private sector shipping companies and which had been guaranteed|counter-guaranteed by SDFC stood at Rs. 366.75 crores. Following abolition of the SDFC, in terms of the provisions of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 the liabilities of the SDFC have vested in the Central Government.